

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1-10 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 11-25 are newly added. Consequently, claims 11-25 are pending in this application.

For the following reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all the rejections outstanding in the March 29, 2005 Office Action.

Rejections of Claims 1-10 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and 103(a)

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,692,272 to Lemke et al. ("Lemke"). In addition, claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lemke alone or in combination with U.S. Patent No. 6,736,676 to Zhang et al. ("Zhang"). These rejections are rendered moot by cancellation of claims 1-10. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

New Claims 11-25

Applicants present new claims 11-25 to more clearly define the subject matter of the present invention. As detailed below, independent claim 11 and its dependent claims are patentably distinguishable over the teachings of Lemke and Zhang.

Independent claim 11 recites an electrical connector comprising "a terminal set essentially consisting of a plus signal terminal, a minus signal terminal, a first ground terminal, and second ground terminal" and "a connector housing accommodating the terminal set." Each of the terminals includes "an electrical contact portion configured to electrically connect to a respective terminal of another electrical connector ... wherein

substantially entire portion of the terminals including the electrical contact portions are disposed inside the connector housing.”

Lemke discloses an electrical connector 100 for connecting between two electrical devices 110, 112. As shown in Fig. 1, the connector 100 includes a first section 101 electrically connected to the first electrical device 110 and a second section 102 electrically connected to a second electrical device 112. The first section 101 comprises a plurality of modules 105, each module comprising a column of conductors 130 secured in a frame 150. As best shown in Fig. 2, each conductor 130 has a connection pin 132 extending from the frame 150 for connection to the first electrical device 110, a blade 136 extending from the frame 150 for connection to the second section 102 of the second electrical device 112.

As is apparent, Lemke does not disclose or otherwise suggest, among other things, “a connector housing accommodating the terminal set ... wherein substantially entire portion of the terminals including the electrical contact portions are disposed inside the connector housing,” as recited in independent claim 11. Instead, the blades 136 of Lemke, which connect to the second section 102 of the second electrical device 112, are extended from the frame 150¹, rather than being disposed inside therein. Zhang does not supply this deficiency of Lemke because Zhang also does not disclose “a connector housing accommodating the terminal set ... wherein substantially entire portion of the terminals including the electrical contact portions are disposed inside the connector housing.”

¹ The Office Action does not specifically identify which element of Lemke’s connector corresponds to the recited “housing.” The Office Action might have construed that the frame 150 of Lemke allegedly corresponds to the recited “housing.”

For at least the reasons set forth above, independent claim 11 and its dependent claims define novel and non-obvious subject matter over Lemke and Zhang.

Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration of this application, the withdrawal of all the outstanding rejections, and the allowance of claims 11-25.

The Office Action contains a number of statements and characterizations regarding the claims and the related art. Applicants decline to subscribe necessarily to any statement or characterization in the Office Action, regardless of whether it is addressed above.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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